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THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW. (Third Edition.) By Joseph Doddridge Brannan, Professor of Law, Emeritus, in Harvard University. The W. H. Anderson Company, Cincinnati, 1919. pp. lxvi, 622.

This work contains the text of the Negotiable Instruments Law, a table giving corresponding sections of the act in the statutes of the states that have adopted it (all except Georgia and Texas) and the controversial discussion of the act by Dean Ames, Judge Brewster and Mr. McKeehan. Under each section will be found the cases citing the Negotiable Instruments Law with a number of cases bearing on the subject where the act was not cited; also occasional references to periodical literature for fuller discussion of the difficult problems. The references to the English cases and the English Bill of Exchange Act is also a valuable feature.

As the Negotiable Instruments Law was adopted in California in 1917, this third edition is a timely publication for the California bar. It is to be hoped that the lawyers will use it, for there is nothing more discouraging than the lack of uniformity due to the gross carelessness of lawyers and judges in failing to look at the statutes. Page after page in the book we find the comment, "The act was not cited"; e. g., p. 21 (Determinable Future Time); p. 46 (Filling of Blanks); pp. 96 et seq., p. 112 (Consideration); p. 110 (Lien as Value); p. 156 (Transfer Without Indorsement); p. 219 (Burden of Proof); p. 239 (Irregular Indorser).

The Negotiable Instruments Law has unquestionably cleared up and settled many conflicts. It has laid down the rule for jurisdictions where the point has not arisen and where no one without the act could predict the decision. Codification, however, causes troubles of its own. On reading the law as enacted in our code one would see little to find fault with. The utmost care, however, cannot foresee all the situations that may arise in which the language of the statute raises an ambiguity or requires an unjust solution. Even the keenness of Dean Ames could not anticipate all the unexpected and unfortunate results. One must be familiar with the cases to realize the problems that may arise; e. g., p. 24 (Negotiability of Certificate of Indebtedness); p. 27 (Payment in Currency); pp. 35 et seq. (Fictitious Payee); pp. 46 et seq. (Filling of Blanks); p. 84 (Forged Indorsement); p. 105 (Antecedent Debt as Value); p. 122 (Negotiation by Accommodated Party); p. 163 (Holder in Due Course); p. 186 (Illegality as a Defense); p. 228 (Liability of Acceptor where accompanying bill of lading is forged); p. 230 (Payment of Bill where drawer's signature is forged); p. 240 (Anomalous Indorser's Liability to Drawer-Payee); pp. 284, 396 (Discharge by Delay in Presenting Check); p. 313 (Suretyship).

It is the scholarship and the breadth of legal knowledge displayed in the comments on each section that give this book its great value. No citator, textbook or mere digest can displace it.

*A. M. Kidd.*